

NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE DAY IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

RACING OPENS AT BENNING

Most Auspicious Beginning Track Has Ever Known.

Thousands of Spectators and Abundance of Bookies.

Himself, Illyria, and Tomcod Favorites in the Handicap.

With the call of reveille, sounded by the bugler from the stewards' stand at Benning this afternoon, the racing season of the year 1904 was ushered in.

Conditions could not have been better. The rain and gloom of the past few days had faded away, under the tempering influence of a bright sun, and a crowd that compares favorably in size with any that was ever seen at Benning is in attendance.

Crowd Arrives Early.

Lovers of the thoroughbred and others who go only on special occasions, began early to arrive at the track, and when the hour for starting the first race arrived, there were thousands of men and women in the grandstand, with all eyes focused on the brilliant dashes of color that moved rapidly up the long stretch from the paddock.

More than forty members of the Metropolitan Turf Association are lined up in the ring laying odds against the horses, and as the meeting progresses the number will be increased.

Form Not Well Known.

Benning is proving a course of satisfaction and profit to the bookmakers in the spring of the year, for the bettors have little opportunity to get a line on the thoroughbreds, and the layers have, in consequence, a decided advantage.

The track is in fair condition, considering the constant rain of almost a week, and if no more water falls, it will be good by Saturday.

Score Named for Handicap.

The fields that make up the six events on the program today are all large, and the racing promises first-class sport.

The handicap is the third race on the card and it will be run about 4 o'clock. Among bookmakers this morning it was the opinion that the Daly trio, Himself, Illyria, and Tomcod, would be the post favorites, though the Schulz pair, Monolu and Shrine, have many friends.

Daly Expects to Win.

Daly is telling all of his acquaintances that he expects to win the race for the third successive time with his chestnut colt, Himself, but other trainers are in a mood to dispute the matter. It is not all probable that this young colt, Himself, will have an easy victory.

Masterman Greatly Favored.

John Boden's horse, Masterman is greatly fancied by his owner and horsemen who have observed his work since he arrived at Benning. This chestnut son of Hastings will be ridden by Cochran, and as the track will suit him and he is undoubtedly the class of the race, the horse that beats him will have to do his very best.

Steeplechase Ends Day.

The other event of interest on today's card is the open steeplechase, which winds up the day's sport. The impression is that Billy Day will win, but there are many who like the old Bradley gelding Boney Boy, who six years ago made his first appearance in a race at the Benning track, finishing third.

GUNS IS CONFIDENT OF QUICK VICTORY

Will Meet Blackburn at 140 Pounds Tomorrow Night—Many Challenges From Aspiring Pugs.

The feature event of the regular weekly meeting tomorrow night of the Eureka Athletic and Social Club of Baltimore, between Joe Guns, the lightweight champion of the world, and Jack Blackburn, of Philadelphia, is of much more importance than the ordinary bout to the Baltimoreans.

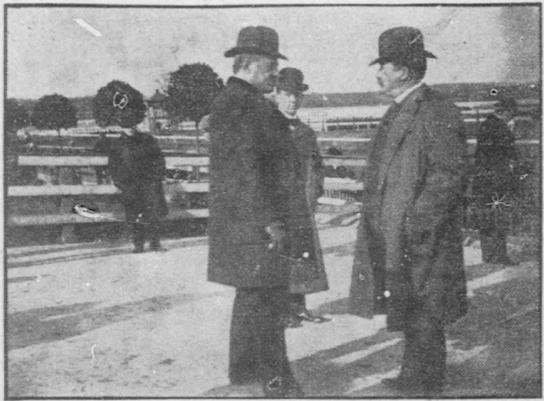
The bout tomorrow night will be at 140 pounds. Should Blackburn be given the decision or score a knockout on the champion, he would be entitled to a claim for a bout with Guns at the legitimate weight limit, 125 pounds.

The usual number of challenges are already at hand, and some of the best boys in the lightweight class of the country have sent letters in which they expressed themselves as being desirous of meeting the winner. Among those who have issued a def to the winner are "Jimmy" Gardner, the well-known New England champion; "Bud" Ryan and "Jack" O'Keefe, both of Chicago; Sam Langford, the Boston welterweight, who received a decision over Claus last winter in Boston; Mike Ward, the Canadian champion, and Dave Holly, of Philadelphia.

NO BETTING ALLOWED AT WASHINGTON PARK

CHICAGO, March 24.—Mayor Harrison has issued a flat order that there is to be no gambling at Washington Park race track this summer. This will open the way for Sheriff Barrett to suppress the books at the outdoor tracks. Nothing in the history of racing in the Middle West has caused such consternation among the betting fraternity, as it means a loss of \$5,000,000 in profits.

MARS CASSIDY, THE STARTER.



Popular and able turf official who lifts the barrier today and sends the thoroughbreds off in the first day's sport of the new season.

Timely Gossip of Paddock And Stable at Benning

For the first time in the history of racing the program at Benning contains the names of the trainers of the horses that are carded in the various races. This is an innovation in this country that will be welcomed by all students of the game. It has long been the custom in England to print the names of trainers and the program of the races is published each day in the morning papers.

Jockey J. Hennessy will doubtless become very popular among the ladies. The little fellow weighs only sixty pounds, and is as chubby and round as a baby. He has an innocent face that is nearly always wreathed in smiles, except when he is busy fighting out a finish with his brother riders. The odds are down and works hard until the wire is reached. There is little doubt that he will land more than one winner at this meeting.

By a curious coincidence, Gwynn R. Tompkins, the trainer of the horses belonging to J. W. Colt, was taken to Providence Hospital yesterday afternoon suffering from an attack of appendicitis. Mr. Colt was operated on in New York on Tuesday for the same disease. Trainer Tompkins is a Washington man, having been raised in this city. He was for many years a newspaper reporter. He is now regarded as the most expert trainer of jumping horses in this country.

A prominent bookmaker, lately arrived from England, ventures the belief that Clonnell, Richard Croker's candidate for the English Derby, will win the blue ribbon classic of the English turf. Clonnell is an American bred horse, and is highly thought of by the expert trainers. The colt is now quoted at odds of 100 to 8, and has been heavily backed by his owner and friends.

In England the opinion that Clonnell will win the Derby is ridiculed. The Britishers are never willing to admit that Americans have any chance to capture their leading races, especially the Derby, but on one occasion they were taught differently. The French horse Governator is the favorite for the Derby. Clonnell is third choice.

The weights for the Chevy Chase Hunt Handicap were announced by Handicapper Murphy yesterday. They are as follows: Lady Tenzel, 150; Le-mecia, 150; Twilight, 160; Montrip, 150; Dragoman, 150; The Hawk, 145, and Les Touraine, 152. The horses will be ridden by gentlemen of no mean approval by the master of the Chevy Chase Hunt. Among those who will have mounts are the two brothers, Chester and Dion; Percy Evans, and Mr. Harris. This race will be a great society event, and the betting is great and of a private nature being done. Twilight seems to be the favorite with most of the clubhouse set.

How are the mighty fallen! There is now at Benning a rider who, in his day was one of the best jockeys on the turf. He is an Englishman by birth, and a decade ago could ride with the best of them. His name is George Taylor, and he had the leg up on the mighty Tristan when that horse shattered a record by being stood for years. It was in the Metropolitan Handicap, at a mile and an eighth. By many turfmen this race is regarded as one of the most remarkable in American racing. Every good horse of the year was entered, and the pace from start to finish was terrific. Few of the horses could live the killing pace, and at the finish Tristan was staggering. The mighty Tenny was behind him. But two horses that started in the race ever amounted to anything afterward. These were Riley and Tenny. The former won several times later on, and Tenny also annexed a stake or two, but the other starters either retired at once or were useless for racing purposes.

"Conjuror will win the Montgomery Handicap," said a horseman who has just arrived from Memphis. This good

LEMOYNE MAKES RECORD FOR 160-YARD SWIMMERS

BOSTON, Mass., March 24.—Another swimming record went by the board last night, and Harry Lemoyne, the short distance champion, is now the proud possessor of the American time for 160 yards, besides holding numerous other marks up to that distance. The feat was accomplished at the Brookline Swimming Club, and was in a handicap race in which Lemoyne was on the outside. He went the distance in 1:53, which cuts the previous American record by eight seconds.

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colt, which is in the stable of Capt. S. S. Brown, the Pittsburg turfman, has been working splendidly this spring, and is regarded by Trainer Tucker as the best three-year-old in his string. Last season he was a big, overgrown colt that did not show to advantage, but with the addition of another year he promises to be one of the cracks. In the future betting on the Montgomery, Conjuror is quoted at long odds, S. C. Hill-dreth's Witul, being favorite, with Little Scout second choice.

CORBETT FAVORITE FOR BIG FIGHT

Odds, Now 10 to 6 1-2, May Go to 2 to 1.

CORBETT GUARDS WEIGHT

Says He Will Make 130 Pounds—Believed He Will Be Lighter Than in Sullivan Fight.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—The betting on the Corbett-Britt fight tomorrow is 10 to 6 1/2 on Corbett. The fighters are helping speculation some. Young Corbett sending in \$2,500, and Britt contending himself with a moderate wager of \$500. Corbett got his on at 10 to 6. When the champion was asked what he thought about the betting he said:

"It looks to me as if it was going to be 2 to 1, but I can't tell what will happen."

Both men are within a pound or two of the required weight, and on the score of condition leave nothing to be desired. The sale of seats has gone over \$25,000. "I will work right up till Thursday night, but I won't go in for any heavy exercise," said Corbett.

"Today will find me sprinting a number of times along the boulevard. When I go to bed I will be well below weight, no matter what guesses and rumors to the contrary are heard."

"I will not have to do a lick of work on the day of the fight, I mean before the weighing hour, and even when I step on the scales no one will know what I weigh. I will wear my underwear and socks and I will not raise the beam, which, of course, will be set at 130 pounds."

While Corbett is determined to guard the secret of his weight with his life, if necessary, he does not mind throwing out a hint that he will weigh four pounds less in his battle with Britt than he did when he boxed Dave Sullivan.

Georgetown Relay Team Leaves for St. Louis

Faculty Suddenly Decides to Let Boys Go. Edmonston, Mulligan, McCarthy, and Captain Joe Reilly Will Run.

The Georgetown varsity relay team leaves this afternoon at 4 o'clock over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for St. Louis, where it will compete in the annual indoor athletic carnival of the University of St. Louis athletic carnival at the coliseum Saturday evening.

Last year at the meet Joe Reilly established a new indoor world's record for the quarter mile, and as he was so well received the St. Louis authorities wrote to Manager Miller, of the Georgetown track team, some time ago asking him to send a team this year.

A Triangular Race. The race in which the Blue and Gray will run will be a triangular one with the varsity of Kansas and some other Middle West team not yet decided upon. The Georgetown four will be composed of Preston Edmonston, 1903,

captain of the Law School relay; Mulligan, the former member of the Brown Prep school team, which held the record for five-man one-mile relay; McCarthy, 1902, and on the varsity football team, and Capt. Joe Reilly, the present member of the squad, who will run the last quarter.

Reilly in Quarter Mile. If the relay race comes early in the meet, Reilly will start from scratch in the quarter mile event, and attempt to surpass his performance of last year. After the good showing made by the team against Yale up to the time that the captain fell upon the track, every member of the team across Rock Creek are sanguine that their sprinters will make good upon their first invasion of the Middle West.

The team will return from St. Louis Saturday evening. The first meeting of the faculty committee held at Saturday's meet, and George A. Desloge, 1903, will be a judge at the finish.

LAWN TENNIS CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The annual meeting of the Bachelor's Lawn Tennis Club was held in the office of President J. Miller Kenyon, in the Colorado Building, yesterday. Mr. Kenyon was again re-elected president, and Herbert G. Deering was elected vice president. To fill the position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Norman, of the British embassy, E. E. Whiting was re-elected to the secretaryship. R. W. Baker and W. E. Woods were elected to the board of directors.

A special meeting will be called to consider an amendment to the constitution to increase the membership. Although it is not yet definitely determined upon, the Southern championship tournament will probably be held on the Bachelor Club's courts, during the week of May 20, and the District championship tournament during the week of September 28.

WARRIORS CONQUER POSTOFFICE BOWLERS

The War Department and Postoffice teams met in the Departmental League last night, and the War boys won two games of the set. In the final game Ausmus chalked up 225, which was highest single. The scores:

Table with columns for names, scores, and totals. Includes names like War, Evans, Brown, Niess, Ausmus, Van Hoesen, Postoffice, Ward, Watson, Frederick, Douglas, Bishop, and Totals.

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CRACK BOWLING TEAM.



The Easterns have been leading the Railway Relief League a long time, and last night took two games from the Roadway team, which is second in the race and fighting hard.

EASTERN TRACK AND RAILWAY BOWLERS

The Eastern and Track and Roadway teams, which rank first and second, respectively, in the Railway Relief Association League, met on the association alleys last night, and the Easterns clinched their hold on the championship by defeating their rivals in two games of the set.

The Easterns have far outclassed the other teams in the league, and unless a remarkable reversal of form is shown by them, are sure to win the bunting. For about three months the Easterns have been leading their opponents, and for a while it was thought they would make a runaway race of it, but recently they have either deteriorated or the other teams have shown great improvement, and its lead has been greatly cut down.

At one time they had won twenty-one games and lost only six, but since then have had but little better than an even break.

RACES SPRING MEETING

Washington Jockey Club MARCH 24 TO APRIL 14.

6 Races Daily.

Thursday, March 24—The First Benning Spring Handicap and an Open Steeplechase.

Admission to Grandstand, \$1.50; Paddock, 50c Extra. Ladies, 50c.

Penn. R. R. Special Train leaves Sixth Street Station 2:19 P. M. Two Special Trains returning—one immediately after the last race, the other to wait for delayed passengers. Electric cars direct to track without change every two minutes from 14th St. and New York Ave. N. W. (Columbia Line.) Fare, 5c.

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